

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 04026 200505Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/064 W

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R 191145Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3918

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4026

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE SCHEDULES SOUTHEAST ASIA
TRIP AGAIN

REF: COLOMBO 2977 (NOTAL)

1. GOVT-CONTROLLED SUNDAY OBSERVER HAD HEADLINE
STORY DEC 14 THAT PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE
WILL MAKE JAN VISIT TO FIVE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES,
BURMA, THAILAND, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PHILIPPINES.
GOVT SPOKESMAN DEC 17, STATED THAT TRIP PLANS
WHICH HAVE BEEN UP IN AIR FOR MORE THAN YEAR, ARE STILL
NOT FINAL AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD MALAYSIA MAY BE DROPPED.
WE UNDERSTAND MAIN PROBLEM IS FINDING DATES CONVENIENT TO
HOSTS AND WHICH FIT IN WITH COMMERCIAL AIRLINE SCHEDULES.
VISITS ARE BEING SCHEDULED BETWEEN MID-JANUARY AND FIRST PART
OF FEBRUARY.

2. FORMER TROTSKYITE LSSP MINISTER COLVIN DE SILVA RAISED
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VISIT IN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY DEC 18 POINTING OUT

THAT ALL COUNTRIES ON ITINERARY EXCEPT BURMA ARE
ASEAN COUNTRIES. HE CLAIMED ASEAN IS SPONSORED BY
UNITED STATES AND THAT AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA OPERATES FROM THESE COUNTRIES. DE SILVA CLAIMED
VISIT WAS AROUSING CONCERN THAT SRI LANKA GOVT (GSL)
WAS MOVING AWAY FROM COMPLETE AND STRICT
NON-ALIGNMENT TOWARDS AMERICAN SPHERE
WHICH WAS DANGEROUS, NOTING THAT AMERICAN POLICY RE
DIEGO GARCIA HAD BEEN CLEARLY IN CONFLICT WITH GSL'S
POLICY. REPLYING FOR GOVERNMENT, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, SAID GSL'S POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED AND
THAT GSL HAD EARLIER LAUNCHED ITS OWN PROTEST OVER DIEGO
GARCIA PLANS.

3. DE SILVA'S COMMENTS DEMONSTRATE TROTSKYITES CONTINUING
EFFORTS TO EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER BY IMPLYING THAT SHE
HAS SUCCUMBED TO US INFLUENCE. THESE EFFORTS WILL
CONTINUE, BUT ATTACKS ARE UNLIKELY TO
CHANGE HER SOUTHEAST ASIA TRAVEL PLANS.
VAN HOLLEN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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